(EDBOs) and 26 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) were opened in rural areas throughout the country.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms and availability of resources. Norms for opening of Post Offices in rural areas especially in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas are highly relaxed and subsidized.

In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Five Year Plan regarding rationalization of the postal network, no plan targets for opening of new post offices have been allotted since 2004-05. Therefore, if justification for opening a post office is found, it can only be opened on a case to case basis by relocation of an existing post office which is no longer justified, as per departmental norms at its present location.

. **Supply of potable water by municipalities**

*335. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of high contamination rate of potable water supplied by municipalities to homes across the cities in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken or propose to take any action to ensure that water supplied to homes by municipalities is free from contamination;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) "Drinking Water Supply in urban areas" is a State subject. It is the responsibility of State Governments/Urban Local Bodies to provide safe drinking water to population living in urban areas, in accordance with the Water Quality Guidelines indicated in the Manual on Water Supply & Treatment published by Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO), technical wing of Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. State Governments/ULBs should undertake water

quality testing/monitoring test to make it fit for human consumption before supplying it to consumers. Data regarding high contamination rate of potable water supplied by municipalities to homes across cities in India is not maintained by Government of India

(b) to (d) to ensure that water supplied by municipalities is free from contamination, this Ministry has published the following Manuals for guidance:—

(i) Manual on Water Supply & Treatment;

(ii) Manual on Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply System.

The guidelines laid down in aforesaid Manuals are to be complied with by municipalities. The provision covers various technical, operational and managerial aspects including quality parameters of drinking water, monitoring and surveillance for proper operation and maintenance of water supply system for supplying safe drinking water to consumers.

Traffic density on Golden Quadrilateral

*336. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the traffic density on Golden Quadrilateral portion in Rajasthan;

(b) whether this traffic density needs six laning of Golden Quadrilateral in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, by when this proposal would be included in NHDP?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The volume of Traffic on Golden Quadrilateral passing through Rajasthan is in the range of 10200 to 49500 Passenger Car Unit. The proposal for six-laning of the whole Golden Quadrilateral including the stretch passing through Rajasthan has been approved by the Government under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-V.